

Circ.: e. 214,927
S. 241,035

Front Page Edit Page Other Page

Date:

The Military Intellectual

PRESIDENT KENNEDY is considering the appointment of Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor to an important White House post, presumably that of military advisor.

This announcement was the first officially disclosed result of the probe of paramilitary activities undertaken by Taylor, Attorney-General Robert Kennedy, Allen Dulles and Adm. Arleigh A. Burke in the wake of the disastrous Cuban invasion. Dulles is head of the Central Intelligence Agency and Burke is chief of naval operations.

The appointment of Taylor as chief military advisor to the President was predictable from several standpoints: The White House is known to have suffered some loss of confidence in the Joint Chiefs of Staff as a result of the Cuban fiasco. Taylor's ideas on building up the nation's conventional-warfare and guerrilla-warfare strength are similar to those publicly espoused by Mr.

Kennedy. And the White House circle of national-security advisors lacks a man with the top-level military experience possessed by Taylor.

General Taylor has a brilliant record in both cold war and hot war. He has commanded in Berlin and in Korea. He represents that rare combination of two-fisted fighting man and thoughtful intellectual. He is an excellent choice to act as the President's right arm in military matters.

As for the hush-hush investigation Taylor and his blue-ribbon assistants have conducted into cloak-and-dagger activities, their report of course cannot be made public. It is filled with vital national-security information.

But we think the public is entitled to an open presidential discussion of the subject to help restore confidence in the nation's undercover operations, so badly shaken by events in Cuba, Laos and elsewhere.